Agenda Date: 04/26/06 Agenda Item: V ^C



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT PETITION OF NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC., ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY, AND THE MOUNT HOLLY WATER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASED TARIFF RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF) DOCKET NO. WR06030257 REVISIONS

(Service List Attached)

BY THE BOARD:

On March 31, 2006, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Petitioners, New Jersey American Water Company, Inc., Elizabethtown Water Company, and Mount Holly Water Company, all public utilities of the State of New Jersey subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities (Board), jointly filed a petition seeking to increase their rates for water service and wastewater service amounting to \$98,993,182 or 22.30%. The increase in rates is proposed to become effective on April 30, 2006. The Petitioners do not seek interim rate relief pending final determination on the petition.

New Jersey American Water Company serves approximately 366,000 water customers and 27,000 wastewater customers in certain portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Union and Warren Counties. New Jersey.

Elizabethtown Water Company serves approximately 208,000 water customers in certain

¹ On March 29, 2006, the Petitioners filed a separate petition seeking to merge all three companies. (See: <u>I/M/O the Joint Petition of New Jersey American Water Company, Inc., Elizabethtown Water Company, and the Mount Holly Water Company for Approval of the Merger of Elizabethtown Water Company and Mount Holly Water Company into New Jersey American Water Company and for Related Authorizations, Docket No. WM06030253)</u>

portions of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris and Union Counties, New Jersey.

Mount Holly Water Company serves approximately 16,250 water customers in portions of Burlington and Ocean Counties, New Jersey.

It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioners' tariffs, it is <u>HEREBY ORDERED</u> that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are suspended until August 30, 2006, unless the Board prior to that date makes a determination disposing of the petition;
- (2) Petitioners shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark, N.J. 07102) proof of compliance with the Notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12 (b) and (c), which Notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and

(3) Petitioners shall, at the same time it files with this Board, also file proof of service of copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate (31 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 46005, Newark, NJ 07102), the clerks of each affected municipality, the clerks to the Boards of Chosen Freeholders of each affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of each affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Suspension Order may be made simultaneously.

DATED: 4/27/06

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY

JEANNE M. FOX

FREDERICK F. BUTLER COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

Service List

I/M/O New Jersey American Water Company, Inc., Elizabethtown Water Company, and the Mount Holly Water Company Docket No. WR06030257

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